IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING In re Application of: Sears et al. I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service To be assigned Serial No: "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box July 8, 2003 (herewith) Filed: Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 18, 2002 For: ALKYLENE OXIDE MODIFIED Date: July 8, 2003 HARDWOOD CELLULOSE Express Mail No. EV 3344436098 US Prior U.S. Application: In re Application of: Sears et al. Examiner: Henry, Michael C. 09/943,650 Serial No.: Filed: August 31, 2001 Group Art Unit: 1623 For: ALKYLENE OXIDE MODIFIED HARDWOOD CELLULOSE

MAIL STOP NEW APPLICATION. Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sirs:

Prior to calculating the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-

identified application as follows: